



Report of the Multilinks third progress meeting (Deliverable D8.2)

The third progress meeting of the EC-funded Multilinks project was held at the Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre in Tallinn. The list of participants, including policy advisors who also attended the meeting, is enclosed. Dominik Sobczak, the project's EC Scientific Officer was an observer at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the most recent scientific papers resulting from the Multilinks collaboration, and to evaluate the project's achievements and to discuss further research plans.

The following substantive presentations were given:

- *Family constellations in Europe: The evidence from the GGS* (Allan Puur, Estonian Interuniversity Population Research Centre)
- *A comparative perspective on parent-child proximity and intergenerational support in Western and Eastern Europe* (Dimitri Mortelmans, University of Antwerp)
- *Gender, family ties and mental well-being* (Nienke Moor, Utrecht University)
- *GGP: Current state of harmonization* (Pearl Dykstra, Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- *Markers of adulthood and old age* (Gunhild Hagestad, University of Agder)
- *Mothers' labour supply and grandparents providing childcare* (Arnstein Aasve, Bocconi University)
- *Filial norms, parental need, and support patterns* (Katharina Herlofson, Norwegian Social Research)
- *Methodology for analysing intergenerational relationships in a comparative perspective* (Arnstein Aasve, Bocconi University)
- *The Multilinks Social Policy Indicators Database: About using indicators for Multilinks research* (Wolfgang Keck / Chiara Saraceno, Social Science Research Center Berlin)
- *Determinants of formal home care use: the influence of individual life circumstances and family context* (Pearl Dykstra, Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- *Subnational regional indicators of intergenerational solidarity: Recoding the regions of the European Social Survey into NUTS1* (Jan van Bavel, Free University Brussels)

Recurring themes were:

- Variability rather than homogeneity among countries in the same geographic region
- Endogeneity of variables such as geographic proximity and intergenerational support
- The ways in which social systems shape people's choices
- The importance of considering how patterns of support and well-being might differ by age.

Further research plans:

Now that the social policy indicators database is in working order, the time has come to write papers in which the indicators are used. It is also expedient to present Multilinks findings in special sessions at conferences in 2010. Pearl Dykstra will coordinate these efforts.

Dominik Sobczak presented the EC SSH research agenda for 2010-2013. The SSH programme will be following an overall integrated “Strategic Research Roadmap”, identifying major “Societal Challenges” that have to be tackled in a medium to long term perspective. The challenge “Supporting families and intergenerational solidarity” envisaged for beyond 2011 under the “Activity 3: Major trends in society and their implications” is among the topics that are relevant to Multilinks researchers. New programmes of research will be much larger and involve higher levels of funding than the current “Collaborative projects”. Ideally, programmes of research will involve 15-20 participants, and management will be professionalized.

The group thanks the organizers, Luule Sakkeus, Allan Puur, and Asta Põldma for hosting a wonderful meeting.

Pearl Dykstra, November 11, 2009

List of Participants Multilinks progress meeting
15 – 16 October 2009, Tallinn University
MARE building at Uus-Sadama str. 5, room 649

Arnstein Aasve (Consortium member)
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Jan van Bavel (Consortium member)
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Erasmus University Rotterdam

Gunhild Hagestad (Consortium member)
Agder University

Katharina Herlofson (Consortium member)
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Maaïke Jappens (Consortium member)
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Kati Karelson (Observer)
Estonian National Institute for Health Development

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Aafke Komter (Consortium member)
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Lauri Leppik (Observer)
Tallinn University

Tiina Linno (Observer)
Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia

Nienke Moor (Consortium member)
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